



**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH,
AND VICTIM SERVICES**

**Report on Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Spending
and Outcomes**

*2020 Joint Chairmen's Report - FY 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets
(Pages 27-28)*

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Executive Director

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

Submitted by:
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

Contact: Cameron Edsall
410-697-9382 | Cameron.Edsall2@Maryland.gov

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Introduction	2
Background	2
Victims of Crime Act Grant Program	3
Allocated Funds for Federal Fiscal 2015, 2016, and 2017 Funding Cycle	3
Expended Funds and Unobligated Funds	4
Improved Outcomes for Victims of Crime	5
Conclusion	5

Introduction

The *2020 Joint Chairmen's Report - FY 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets* (Pages 27-28) requires the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (Office) - previously known as the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention¹ - to submit a report to the budget committees by December 1, 2020, as it relates to the allocation of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding for federal fiscal 2015, 2016, and 2017 fund cycles.² Specifically, and pursuant to the *2020 Joint Chairmen's Report - FY 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets* (Pages 27-28), the report should include:

- Detail the allocation of funding for the federal fiscal 2015, 2016, and 2017 fund cycles.
- Identify funds expended for the purpose of the direct provision of services, administration, and funds that went unobligated.
- Evaluate the success of Maryland's VOCA funding program using performance metrics to detail how these funds have translated to improved outcomes for victims of crime.

The *2020 Joint Chairmen's Report - FY 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets* (Pages 27-28) also restricts the expenditure of general funds, in the amount \$100,000, until the Office submits the required report.

In accordance with the *2020 Joint Chairmen's Report - FY 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets* (Pages 27-28), this *Report on VOCA Spending and Outcomes* provides a follow-up to two reports, titled *Report on Continuity of VOCA Services* and *Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funding Requirement Report*, that were submitted in December 2020 and December 2018, respectively.³

Background

Established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, the Crime Victims Fund (Fund) is a major funding source for victim services throughout the nation. Millions of dollars have been deposited into the Fund annually from criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalties, and special assessments collected by U.S. Attorneys' Offices, federal U.S. courts, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. To date, Fund dollars have always come from offenders convicted of federal crimes, not from taxpayers. Previous legislation expanded the sources from which Fund deposits may come.

¹ Maryland General Assembly. (2020). [Chapter 11. Acts of 2020](#). In March 2020, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention was renamed the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

² Department of Legislative Services. (2020). [2020 Joint Chairmen's Report: Report on the Fiscal 2021 State Operating Budget \(SB 190\) And the State Capital Budget \(SB 191\) And Related Recommendations](#).

³ Department of Legislative Services. [Report on the Continuity of Victims of Crime Act \(VOCA\) Services; Victims of Crime Act \(VOCA\) Funding Requirement Report](#).

Through the Fund, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) awards formula and discretionary grants to States each year “to enhance the delivery of crime victim services throughout the Nation.”⁴ This includes VOCA assistance funds which are typically awarded on a competitive basis “by the State to local community-based organizations that provide direct services to crime victims.”⁵ VOCA assistance funds are multi-year awards with varying allocations from one federal fiscal year to the next.

Victims of Crime Act Grant Program

Pursuant to the *2020 Joint Chairmen’s Report - FY 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets* (Pages 27-28), the Office must submit a report to the budget committees by December 1, 2020, as it relates to the allocation of funds, from the federal VOCA grant program, for federal fiscal 2015, 2016, and 2017 fund cycles; the expenditure of funds for the three most recently completed funding periods; and how the programs funded with VOCA funds improved outcomes for victims of crime. The primary purpose of the VOCA grant program is to improve the treatment of victims of crime by providing victims with the assistance and services necessary to aid their restoration after a violent criminal act, and to support and aid them as they move through the criminal justice process.⁶ Funds are used to assist subrecipients in providing direct services to crime victims.

Allocated Funds for Federal Fiscal 2015, 2016, and 2017 Funding Cycle

As illustrated below, the allocation of VOCA funds varied between federal fiscal 2015, 2016, and 2017 funding cycles.⁷ Total allocation to Maryland is utilized over multiple years with a portion of unobligated funds deferred for awards issued in the following years.

Federal Fiscal Year	Award	Start Project Date	End Project Date
FY 2015	\$36,267,251	October 1, 2014	September 30, 2018
FY 2016	\$40,977,191	October 1, 2015	September 30, 2019
FY 2017	\$33,984,124	October 1, 2016	September 30, 2020

⁴ Office for Victims of Crime. [Awards Listing](#).

⁵ Office for Victims of Crime. [2017 Crime Victims Fund Compensation and Assistance Allocations](#).

⁶ Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. [Victims of Crime Act \(VOCA\)](#).

⁷ It is important to note that all VOCA awards are issued on an October 1 start date per the federal fiscal year and are not aligned with the State fiscal year.

Expended Funds and Unobligated Funds

Between federal fiscal 2015, 2016, and 2017 funding cycles, the Office received federal allocation of VOCA funds, totaling \$111,228,566.00 (*as illustrated above*). Of the awarded VOCA funds, subrecipients expended a total of \$108,084,542.59 to provide direct services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, and underserved populations.⁸ The provision of services allowed subrecipients to:

- Respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims;
- Assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after a victimization;
- Assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and
- Provide victims of crime with a measure of safety and security as appropriate to their victimization.

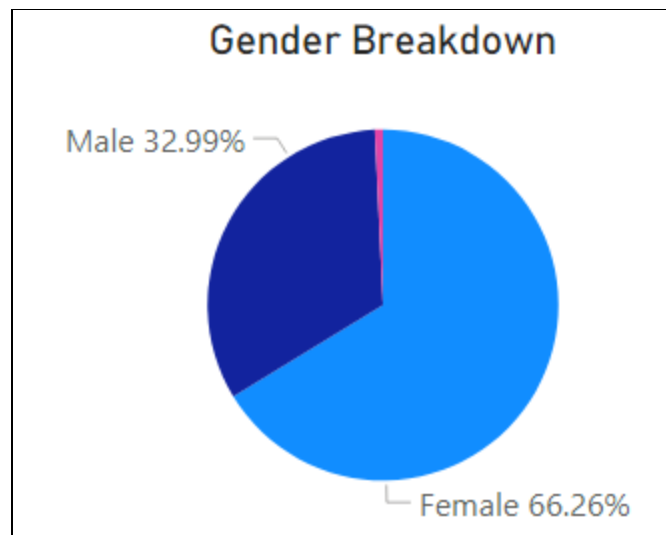
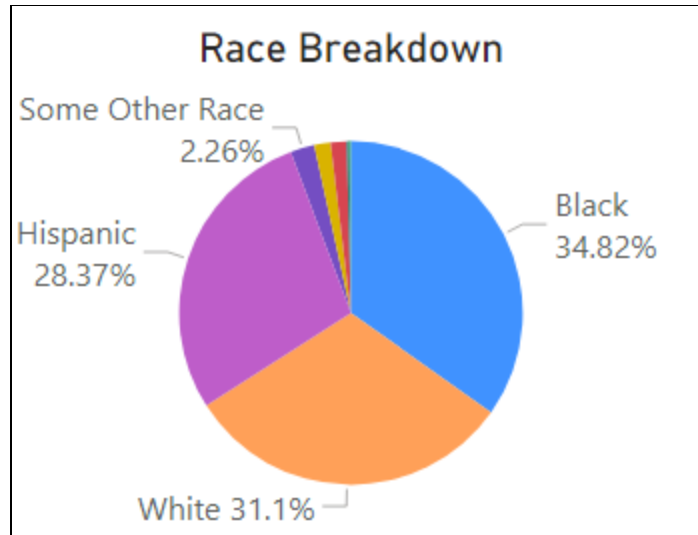
An additional \$2,507,252.01 was used for administration, and the remaining \$2,861,359.97 went unobligated based on actual expenditures reported by subrecipients and vacancies/staff turnover.

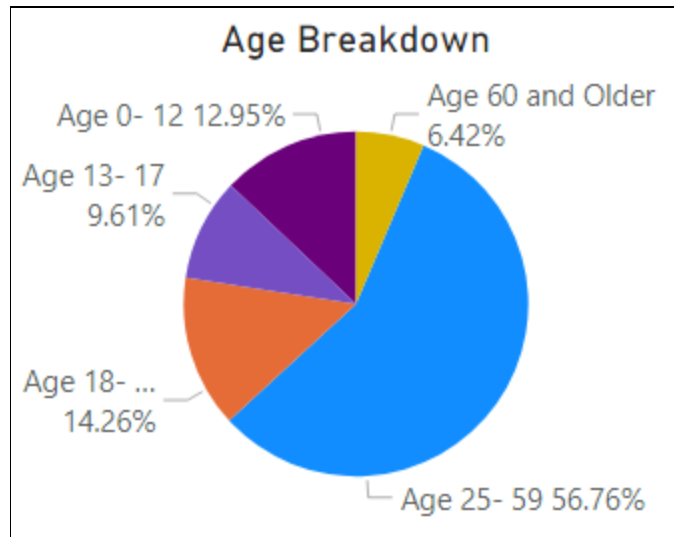
Improved Outcomes for Victims of Crime

Through Maryland's VOCA funding program, victims of crime receive the necessary services to achieve self-sufficiency, improve safety, and receive information regarding their rights and resources. Based on subrecipients' reported performance measures, which are submitted to the Office of Victims of Crime, this program has improved outcomes for victims of crime.

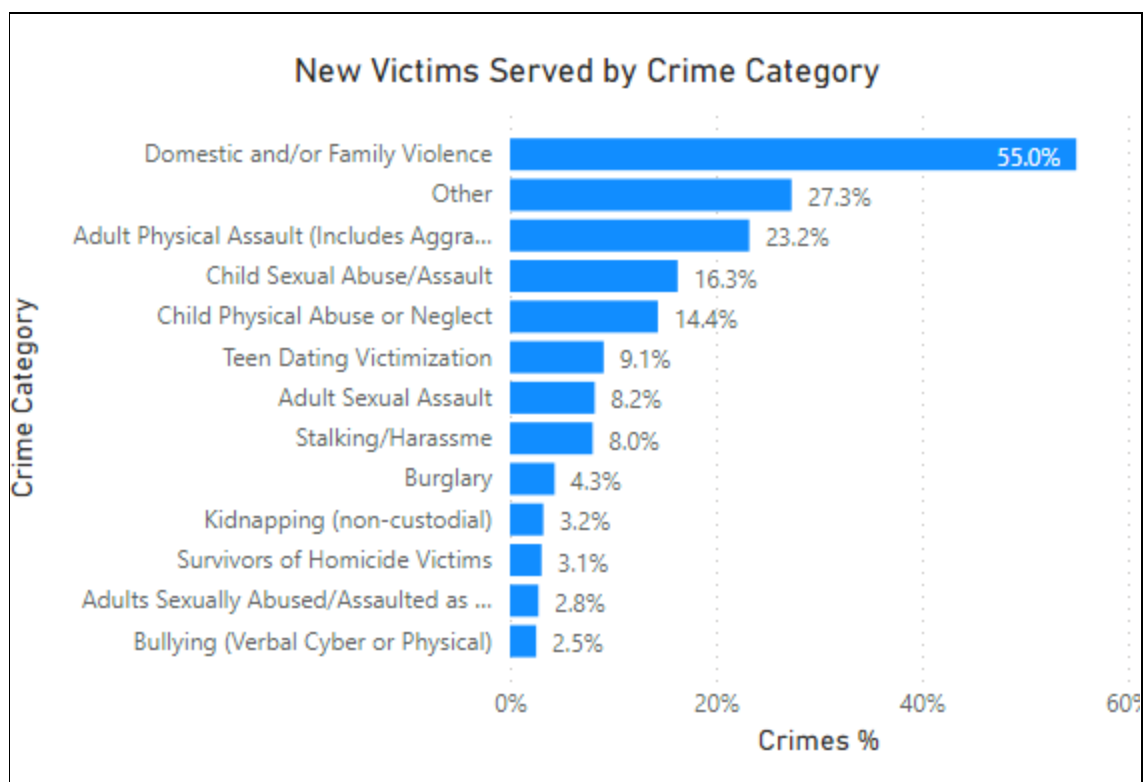
Specifically, and between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2020, subrecipients reported that 362,488 new victims were served. From this total, 35% of the victims served were Black, 31% were White, and 28% were Hispanic. Two-thirds of the victims served were female, and one-third were male. In addition, 22% of the victims served were juveniles.

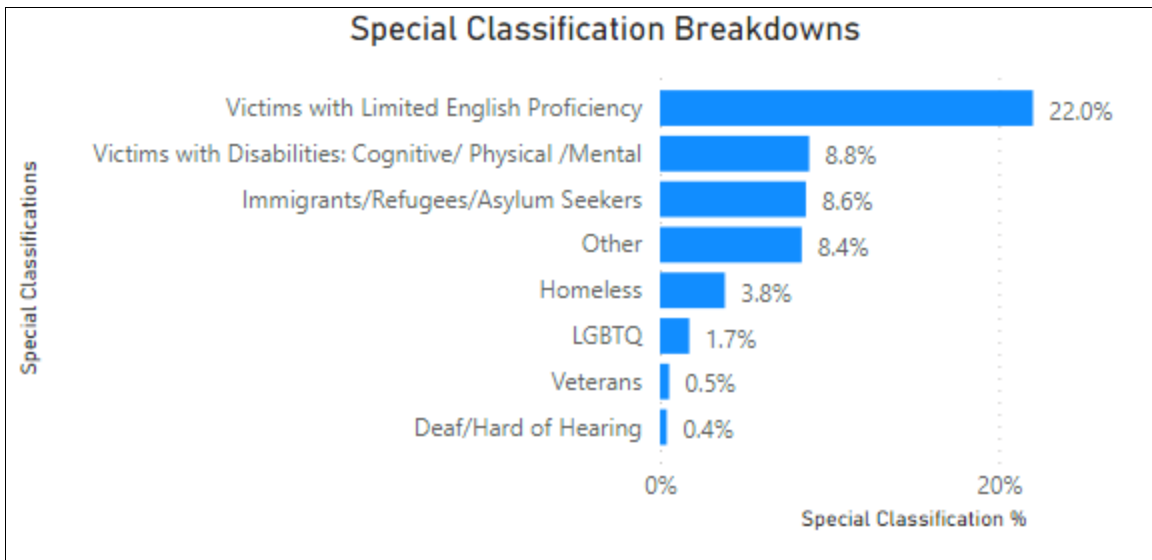
⁸ It is important to note that underserved victims of either adult or juvenile offenders may include, but are not limited to, victims of federal crimes; survivors of homicide victims; or victims of assault, robbery, gang violence, hate and bias crimes, intoxicated drivers, bank robbery, economic exploitation and fraud, and elder abuse. For more information, please see the [FY 2018 Victims of Crime Assistance \(VOCA\) Grant Program Notice of Funding Availability](#).





The most common crime victims served included domestic violence (55%), assault (23.2%), child sexual assault (16.3%), and child abuse (14.4%). Furthermore, 22% of the victims served had limited English proficiency, and over 8% had cognitive disabilities and/or were immigrants.





Conclusion

The Office will continue to work with subrecipients to oversee the expenditure of VOCA funds to be used to respond to the needs of crime victims and assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice process.

For the purpose of this *Report on VOCA Spending and Outcomes*, it is important to note that the Victims of Crime Compensation (VOCC) fund transitioned from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to the Office during the federal fiscal year 2017. This fund serves to reimburse victims of violent crimes - such as assault, homicide, rape, and, in some states, burglary - as well as their families for many out-of-pocket expenses.

In addition, the Department of Justice established a [website](#) “to serve as a resource hub for their grants management system (JustGrants) and payment management system (ASAP), both of which launched on October 15, 2020.”⁹ Because the data migration of JustGrants and ASAP occurred when the systems launched on October 15, 2020, and the old system became defunct, this caused a delay in retrieving the necessary information to produce this *Report on VOCA Spending and Outcomes* in a timely manner.

⁹ Department of Justice. (2020). [Learn About the Department of Justice's Grants and Payment Management Systems](#).